

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

I. Introduction

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1 and 4-8 are now pending in this application. Claims 7-8 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 10 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended by incorporating the limitation of claim 10 into claims 1 and 7. Support for the amendment may be found on page 6, lines 17 to 19 of the specification. No new matter was added.

II. Interview and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner in conducting a telephone interview with the undersigned representative on August 6, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that claim 1 would be allowed if the limitation of claim 10 was incorporated into claim 1.

In response, applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 by including the limitation from claim 10 according to the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-6 are now in condition for allowance.

III. Rejoinder Request

Claim 7 was also amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 10. Applicants respectfully request that upon allowance of claim 1, method claims 7 and 8 be rejoined with claim 1 according to the rejoinder procedure of MPEP § 821.04.

IV. The Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 are rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by McClary. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As agreed during the interview, the amendment of claim 1 should be sufficient to overcome the rejection over McClary. Applicants respectfully submit that McClary does not teach or suggest at least elements (d) or (e) of claim 1.

V. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/1/04
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.